

WESSEX NEWS

VOL. 2 NO. 4

NOVEMBER 3RD, 1936

PRICE TWOPENCE

"A Year Ago"

If this paper were old enough, and the editors' fancy led him to indulge in a reminiscent column similar to those so popular among our heavier contemporaries, we might have seen in this issue a reminder that on the 31st of October, one year ago, the Edward Turner Sims Library was opened by H.R.H. the Duke of York. It had been used for a short time before, but its official life started on that date, and its anniversary offers a suitable occasion for a kind of stock-taking. Has the Library fulfilled expectations? Has the handsome building given by the Misses Sims added as much as was hoped, not only to the appearance, but to the working facilities of the College? The answer is, emphatically, yes. In many ways it has exceeded expectations. Students are coming to read there in such steadily increasing numbers that already more furniture is necessary. (Thirty more chairs are already on order.) Clearly the new building is popular, and everyone who remembers the old library rooms, overcrowded, noisy and draughty, will feel thankful for the spaciousness and quiet of the new place.

In our satisfaction at the excellence of the new building, however, we must not forget the books. After all, the *librarium* is the place where books are kept, and the derivation reminds us that books are the essential factor. One could plan a well-lit, well-warmed, quiet and comfortable hall, where people could read and write, but this, without books, would not be a library—except perhaps in luxury hotel or liner parlance.

In a college library, indeed, one can hardly forget the importance of books: "set texts," and "prescribed reading" form so largely and inevitably along the degree course. But what of the by-ways outside the course? In the Library like ours, founded on a collection dating from 1850 and added to since by the gifts of many book-lovers, there is a large variety of riches. How many users of the Library realise that we possess a copy of the Authorised Version of the Bible of 1611, the year of its publication? And an account on the Supplies to the troops in the Crimean War, that belonged to Florence Nightingale; and books containing the signatures of Isaac Newton and of Dante Gabriel Rossetti? These are random examples of books whose interest is chiefly antiquarian but there are many others which have a source-book value, for example, the long set of "The Gentleman's Magazine," the original issues of "The Spectator," and the early volumes of the Royal Society's "Philosophical Transactions." Again, there are small but interesting collections on music and the other arts, which are worth investigating.

It must not be supposed that this is leading up to an exhortation to "browsing." This metaphor has had an unfortunate popularity in connection with libraries and has been definitely harmful in its way. It suggests something so casual, so effortless, so unplanned and lacking in initiative, that many self-respecting people will hardly linger for a moment near the book-shelves, for fear they should be thought to "browse." Certainly much entertainment can be had from casual exploration; but when exploration has led to something interesting, this something must be noted, followed up and developed, if it is to give any lasting pleasure. The form of enjoyment proper to a library demands a metaphor of quickening intelligence rather than of dulled content. Browsing like the game of bowls, should be left to later middle-age.

Reading for recreation is, of course, part of education in its wider aspect and it is to be hoped that before long the Students' Council will be able to act on the suggestion already made in one or two quarters, to provide a Common Room Library. If it were possible to build up a good collection of travel books, biographies, and works of general interest, too ephemeral perhaps to be included in the College Library but still well worth reading, it would surely be well appreciated, and gifts from outside sources would probably be forthcoming.

In the matter of gifts, I should like to record with gratitude one made at the end of last session: a joint gift from the members of the German Honours Class of some half-dozen excellent books for the German literature section. In the sense of the small girl who thought that "returns" meant "presents" I take leave to wish the Library "many happy returns."

D. P. P.

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WESSEX NEWS

WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, November 3rd, 1936.

Offices:

STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Editor: J. F. Gravett.

Sports Editor: D. Tyerman, Esq.

Sports Sub-Editor: V. G. Robson.

Business Manager: A. R. Brown.

EDITORIAL

Much as we enjoy and make use of our privilege of grumbling at every possible thing, even the most hardened grumbler among us must admit that our College and Halls are situated "in surroundings of considerable natural beauty." Before the past week of wind and rain had done its damage, this beauty was probably at its best. Looking from the Library across the brickfields to the Common it was hard not to believe that it was the edge of the Forest, and the trees bordering the Avenue were golden for the whole length of it. The trees (especially the apple trees) at the back of Connaught Hall look very good; but those of us who are fortunate enough to live in Stoneham are the most privileged in our environment, what with the clear yellow of maple and horse-chestnut, the wonderful colour-gradations of the old medlar, the crimson of the creeper leaves above the Salmon Pool, and the glowing red and orange of the crab apples. The faults of our surroundings come very readily to mind, but we have much to be thankful for.

Our pupils hope expressed last week, that winning would become infectious is apparently being realised, as Soccer has continued on the whole to be successful, and Rugger has now taken to winning or drawing instead of losing.

In view of the letters published in last week's "Wessex News" on the Book Scheme, what the President of the Union said about it at the S.U. Meeting is particularly interesting. Those in charge of the Bookshop cannot perform miracles, any more than anyone else, and we must be reasonable in our demands.

The Business Manager would be grateful if subscribers who have not yet sent in their subscriptions to him would do so as soon as possible.

1. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

2. Correspondents are asked to make their letters as brief and to the point as possible.

3. The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to print Society reports unless they have genuine news value.

THIS GOD—"GAMES."

Mr. Wife's leading article on the "Athletic Union" in last week's "Wessex News" was probably read with grants of approval by the majority of College students but others received it with mixed feelings of resentment and amusement. The writer, consciously or unconsciously, apes the "old school tie" cad and it would be a real treat to hear the Western Brothers reading his first paragraph.

The article begins with the quotation (obviously misinterpreted for the occasion). Thence, for some four hundred lines, the writer rants and babbles about the A1 England of the past, and the C3 nation of to-day, glibly inserting the catch-phrases to be found at a glance in any of our penny dailies. The vital cause of the poor physical condition of many of our countrymen, Mr. Wife, is malnutrition and extreme mental depression consequent upon long spells of unemployment, and the fa it lies rather "in the stars" not "in ourselves."

I have no quarrel with the bulk of the "leader" but disagree with one or two of the views expressed. By all means let us encourage physical fitness "in this our England," and let us, as students of U.C.S., support and recognise the endeavours of our Athletic Union officials. However, I refute Mr. Wife's contention that there is only one means of attaining and maintaining physical fitness, i.e., games. The fellow who indulges in long rambles or cycle rides in the country is taking a much more natural and equally beneficial form of exercise than if he were to spend 90 minutes trying to kick a sphere between two wooden posts. Moreover, it is a medical fact, that if in the well trained athlete the fire glows more brightly it also burns out sooner. Let me quote an excerpt from the Cambridge Professor of Anatomy's letter to "The Times." "The feats of daring of mental and physical endurance, whether at the equator or at the poles, . . . are the product of the spirit of the British race not of the gymnasium or the football field." In Scott's last diary after feats of incomparable physical endurance is the advice "Make the boy interested in

(continued in column 10)

Correspondence—Cont. from page iv
perhaps the remedying of social conditions, and an Inter-Collegiate Conference at U.C.S.—again on God's Message to the Modern World. We shall be interested to see what interest, if any, will be taken in our enquiry into whether Christianity is just a powerful but spent civilizing force, or whether it is as forceful and important amid the present chaos as it was to its founders.

I am, yours, etc.,

Margery Betts
(President, S.C.M.)

To the Editor of *Wessex News*.

Dear Sir,

Probably my previous letter relating to the Fur Trade lacked clarity; certainly Mr. Newman has missed the point. Obviously many English fur-bearing animals do considerable damage, and their activities must be restricted; I would surely protest that present methods are unnecessarily barbarous. As for the fox, but for its artificial preservation in order that certain folk may enjoy the pleasure of pursuing it to a brutal death, it would probably by now be extinct.

But this is rather apart from the real Fur Trade. I would suggest that if a boycott were placed on all furs obtained in a cruel and agonising way, traders would soon see to it that their furs were placed on the "White List," indicating that certain standards of humanity and decency had been observed.

Yours sincerely,

R. A. Shannon.

CHESS CLUB.

Match Results:—

"A" beat Taunton's School
5½—4.
"B" lost to the Rooks, 5—1.
"C" lost to Taunton's "B",
3—2.

This week, the "A" play The Rooks, and the "B", Old Tauntonians.

Like other clubs, the Chess Club is handicapped by lack of support, particularly by men who are "working" even on the Dip. course! But the juniors are giving the "C" team good support.

THE FRENCH PLAYERS

WILL PRESENT

LE GENDRE DE M. POIRIER

(Augier et Jules Sandeau)

at 2.30 p.m.

AND

MARTINE

(J. J. Bernard)

at 7.45 p.m.

On WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, 1936
At UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Southampton

TICKETS Price 2/6 (reserved) and 2/- and 1/- may be obtained from The Secretary for Extra-Mural Studies, University College, Southampton.

From our Cookery Expert

The following recipe for rabbit stew was found on one of the news-sheets circulated in the Alcazar: The cat should be stripped of fur in accordance with the methods of the "Fur Crusade," drawn and quartered. It should then be boiled for two hours in distilled water to cover, with a pinch of bicarb, added to combat the sulphurous taste.

Both Spaghetti Cheese and Tomato and Cheese Pastry are usually spoilt by an almost crude amount of cheese being added, making the dish taste very strongly of it. The secret is to enlist the services of the cheese rather than attempt its consumption in one operation. The best known method, discovered at an institution famous for its researches into dietetic problems, is not to place the cheese in bodily, but to treat the dish when piping hot, by passing a large piece of cheese over the dish at a height of approximately three inches so that it passes through the steam, giving a delicate flavour to the dish.

Trifle:—The beauty of this dish lies not in its ingredients, but in other qualities. Only custard and sponge cakes need be used to make this attractive sweet, but it should be carefully arranged and tastefully served in an ancient hip-bath. The latter may be sterilised, but if the diners never grumble it is hardly necessary. Or it may be served up from a new clean enamelled pail, which should be kept solely for this purpose.

Vegetable Roll:—This dish is a well-known surprise item at Hallowe'en feasts. The object of it is to prepare it from ingredients which, separately, would be edible and to preserve this edible appearance. Dumplings, carrots, peas and beans form the best basis, but asloes should be added. The whole should be boiled to a paste. The surprise is that anyone eats it at all, considering the nauseating taste.

Stewed Steak:—The cook should find a Lecturer and a Horse. The Horse should be humanely shot, but the Lecturer should not. This should ensure the meat being suitable to form a firm basis for heavy exercise.

Further discoveries should be communicated to the Business Manager of this paper, who will be eternally grateful for them.

Continued from column ii.
natural history if you can; it is better than games.

Psychologically too, this constant nagging of a fellow with no aptitude for games to make an exhibition of himself on the field is dangerous. These physical fitness maniacs are better out of the teaching profession.

Nor was the appeal necessary. If statistics were taken, they would probably show that 90% of the men in College take part in athletic exercise. (In encouraging sport among the women, I rather think Mr. Wife is rushing in where angels fear to tread).

D. Barker.

ATHLETIC UNION.

First Rugger Victory

SOCCER WIN IN U.A.U. MATCH

Weather Spoils Many Matches

To the Editor of Wessex News.

Dear Sir,

I should like to bring the fact of all students to the Club now has a Club Night on Thursday from 9-10 p.m. at the Corporation Baths. Two coaches, one for men and one for women, are in attendance during the hour, and are willing to give instruction to both swimmers and non-swimmers. By holding this Club Night, all students obtained reduced prices at the Baths at all times, and we should like to urge all students to make it successful by attending regularly on Thursday nights. The price of entrance to the Baths is 3d. at any time.

Yours faithfully,
Charles L. Shepherd,
Hon. Sec.,
Swimming Club.

A.F.C. v. Reading Univ.

On Wednesday College played their first U.A.U. match, being at home to Reading. College were at full strength and were in high hopes of pulling off a good win. Robson lost the toss and the visitors decided to have the sun at their backs. Throughout the first half play was very even but exceedingly fast. The first thing of note was a good shot by Thorp which just missed the post. Shortly afterwards Pettit drove in a beautiful shot which was saved at the expense of a corner. Play continued to sweep from end to end but the defences on both sides dominated the game and half-time arrived with the score 0-0.

Reading went ahead within two minutes of the second half but Eden headed a centre from Wallace into the net to equalise within a minute. A ding-dong struggle followed, each side straining hard for a goal. College went further ahead when Thorp put Wallace away and the winger ran on to place the ball in the net.

Several chances were missed but both teams kept up a cracking pace. The winds of the College team were now playing well. Newland worked his way through and although tackled by three defenders he steered the ball into the net. College were now the superior side but Robson had to bring off two or three fine saves. Reading were far from a beaten side and staged several attacks but they were beaten back by a resolute defence. In the closing minutes Wallace received from Ashworth and raced half the length of the field to score Southampton's fourth goal. Altogether it was a very hard game, neither

side giving anything away. Robson, Cowling and Wallace deserve special mention for their fine football and none worked harder than Ashworth. If they keep this up College should find their rightful place—champions of the Southern Division of the U.A.U. championship.

A.F.C. v. Andover Town.

In the first round of the Hampshire Senior Cup College were drawn away to Andover. The same side was fielded as represented College against Reading except that Eden was absent with a pulled muscle and Belton deputised. It was pouring with rain when the teams came out and the pitch was sodden with the recent heavy rain. Winning the toss College had the wind and rain behind them. It was soon evident that the greasy ball and slippery surface would make good football impossible. Andover were definitely quicker on the ball but the defence was holding its own. Robson saved a penalty and brought off several good saves from the Andover forwards. The Andover right-winger then got away, cut in and gave Robson no chance with his shot. Wallace and Ashworth were playing well and did most of the attacking. Wallace came very near to scoring when he beat the goal-keeper with a good shot but one of the Andover backs headed clear. Just before half-time Collins who had played a splendid game was hurt badly and during his absence Andover scored again.

In the second half College were mainly on the defensive but Robson was in magnificent form in goal. Repeatedly he saved from the Andover forwards and showed a finished technique in his handling of the greasy ball. Just before the finish Andover scored from a melee, Robson being unsighted. College missed two good chances. Collins who had pluckily returned to play well, was hurt again and had to leave the field with his ankle dislocated but even with ten men College held their own until the final whistle. Several of the team were beaten by the state of the ground and the quicker tackling of the Andover men. Considering the awful conditions College did quite well and were not disgraced in losing 3-0.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Wednesday, Oct. 28th.

1st XI v. Reading U.A.U. (home), won 4-1.

3rd XI v. Lympington Rovers 2nd XI (away), lost 4-0.

Saturday, Oct. 31st.

1st XI v. Andover. Hants

Senior Cup (away), lost 3-0.

2nd XI v. Old Symondians (away), won 3-1.

3rd XI v. Merton F.C. (home), won 10-4.

Matches this week.

Wednesday, Nov. 4th.

2nd XI v. Portsmouth Muni. Coll. (home).

Saturday, Nov. 7th.

1st XI v. Cowes F.C. (away).

2nd XI v. Lyndhurst (away).

3rd XI v. Ambassadors F.C. (home).

FEMALE FOOTBALLERS.

All students in College—reserve Wednesday, Dec. 9th, for the biggest attraction of the year when Portsmouth Atalanta Girls F.C. will be playing our 1st XI on our ground. Roll up and see fair play.

EDITORIAL ATHLETE

We learn that Alastair Geddes, first editor of this journal, is to turn out shortly at outside-left for the Staff of his Essex School. There is considerable interest being shown in the Eastern counties. *Mens sana in corpore sano.*

SIGNIFICANT?

Is there any significance in the news that the Captain of Soccer is to play hockey against the girls of his school?

WOMEN'S HOCKEY.

1st XI v. Parkstone Ladies.

The hockey team on Wednesday had hoped to end their run of failures but immediately the match began it was apparent that Parkstone were definitely the superior team. They were quicker, tackled back immediately on losing the ball and seemed to have much more enthusiasm. In contrast the College team played indifferently throughout the first half. It was not surprising therefore, at half time, to find College down 1-6. Certainly some of these goals should never have beaten the goalie, but the fact remains that College never looked like winning.

After half time play was more evenly contested and each team added three goals to their score.

Unless the hockey team really "gets going" quickly the immediate outlook is not very bright. At the present time the only thing we can do is to try and impress upon all who play in the team, the need for more team spirit and ask them to play up as much as ever they can instead of running out half-heartedly, caring little whether we win or lose.

MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB.

Report of matches played by the Club: 1st XI versus R.A.F.

Worthy Down, Draw, 4 all.

The problem of suitable wing halves has not yet been solved, this match showed very clearly the weakness in defence which was caused by the halves not sticking to their men and in not recovering quick enough. If the defence had been just a bit more reliable in this direction the College would have scored a comfortable victory.

1st XI versus R.A.F. Boscombe Down, scratched.

ROWING: Men.

There is great enthusiasm and promise in the Men's Rowing Club, and not only are many men being devotedly cared for, but a good First VIII seems likely.

Women.

In their unofficial way the oarsmen make steady progress. Our subscription list for their support is still open.

U.C.S. v. R.A.F. Gosport
Away, Oct. 28th.

In a very open game at Gosport the College beat the R.A.F. by 11 pts. to 9 pts. The College attacked from the kick-off and pressed hard but it was not until after 20 minutes play that they opened the scoring when R. Wife, the full-back, made a good run up-field to score a try, which was not converted. This was followed closely by a try by R. Wife near the corner flag.

Score, half-time: 6-0 to the College.

Gosport scored very early in the second half, but the College soon went further ahead with a try by Moir which he also converted. Gosport replied with one more try to complete the scoring.

Result: U.C.S. 11 pts. R.A.F. Gosport 6 pts.

Saturday, Nov. 7th.

1st XI v. Portsmouth Municipal College (home).

CROSS COUNTRY CLUB.

The Cross Country Club gained a comfortable victory over the R.A.F. Calshot, by 30 points to 48. Owing to the recent heavy rain the course was very sodden and made the going difficult. The start was made in a high wind; Lawrence and Moore set the pace, closely followed by Wilkes and Coupland of Calshot, and Newton-Smith, Pearce, Dukes and Lockyer of Southampton. At the end of two miles Lawrence was leading, with Newton-Smith, Moore and Wilkes on his heels. The positions remained unchanged until the fourth mile, when Newton-Smith and Wilkes began to draw ahead. Newton-Smith, who was running on the course for the first time, cleverly allowed Wilkes to shield him from the wind, until about a mile from home, when he started to pull away from Wilkes, and arrived home 35 minutes. Within a minute he was joined by Lawrence, Coupland, third and fourth, Burroughs and Moore tying for fifth place and a few seconds later by Dukes. U.C.S. gained four out of the first six places.

L. H. M.

